

July 18, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Western Wireless Corp. Petition for Designation as an  
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related  
Waivers to Provide Universal Service to Crow  
Reservation, Montana;  
CC Docket No. 96-45.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Western Wireless Corp. (Gene DeJordy and Mark Rubin) and members of the Crow Tribal Government (Chairman Clifford Birdinground, Sr., Vice Secretary Burdick Twoleggins, Finance Director Kelly Passes, and Counsel Sam Painter) had an *ex parte* conversation yesterday with Linda Kinney and Andrea Kearney of the Office of General Counsel about the proceeding referred to above.

The tribal representatives introduced themselves to Ms. Kearney and Ms. Kinney and reaffirmed the content of the attached May 27<sup>th</sup> letter of support for the Western Wireless petition. The remaining two attachments (Project Telephone letter and MITS letter) were left behind.

If you have any questions, then please contact me at 202-654-5903.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin  
Director of Federal Government Affairs  
Western Wireless Corp.